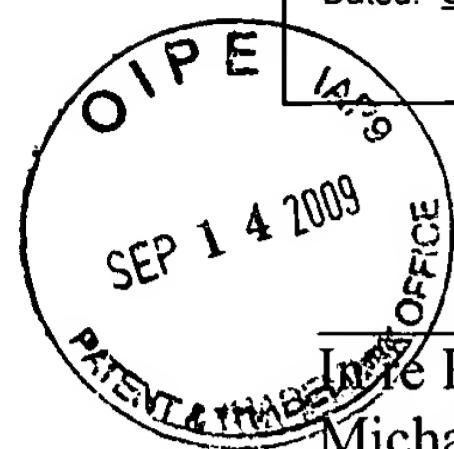


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail, Airbill No. EV513653628US, in an envelope addressed to: MS RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: September 14, 2009

Signature: Valerie Cohen
(Valerie Cohen)

Docket No.: 223002010004
(PATENT)



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inde Patent Application of:
Michael HOUGHTON et al.

Application No.: 09/884,455

Confirmation No.: 1938

Filed: June 18, 2001

Art Unit: 1656

For: HEPATITIS C VIRUS PROTEASE

Examiner: W. Moore

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.111

MS RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the final Office Action dated August 18, 2008 (Part of Paper No./Mail Date 20080805), for which a response was due on November 18, 2008. A Notice of Appeal and a petition for a three-months' extension of time was submitted February 18, 2009. This response is submitted with a Request for Continued Examination and a petition for a five-months' extension of time. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims, as amended, in light of the remarks presented herein are respectfully requested.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 3 of this paper.